

Contributions

MONEY AND BONDS, HOGS AND CORN

ELLEN GNAGEY LICHTY

Brethren, do you hear the call for help? Ashland College must have an endowment. The Missionaries are in want. Where are you? Don't you hear the call? Have you read Matthew 6: 19, 20, lately? "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break thru and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break thru nor steal." Let us read it over several times, then ask ourselves the question, "Does it mean me?" It seems to me I hear some say we have enough to do at home. Well perhaps we have if we can't see any farther than our own home. Let us see what Mark 16: 15, says about that "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." That seems to include more than our own home. If we can not preach, it is our duty, yes and should be our pleasure, to send others. Do you think you will lose by giving to the Lord what belongs to him? Some of us act like some of those disciples who said, "We have but five loaves and two fishes, we need these, send the multitude away." Jesus said, "not so, we will divide with them," and in some way it so happened that when they were all fed, they had more left than there was in the first place. Yes, but some one says that time is past, that was a miracle. In this age each one must look out for himself, keep all he has and take all he can get.

Well perhaps so, but I know a sister (and she did not live when Christ dwelt upon earth either) who earned her own living, and she intended to take a trip. She generally counted the cost and made arrangements a little ahead of time; she had set her time to start and then she read an appeal for help in the church paper, from a poor but worthy Brother. Her conscience, or some still small voice said, "Send him ten dollars, but she said the money that I earn between now and the time I want to leave, is just what I want for my trip. She prayed over it, and then she sent the money, and left it with the Lord. She concluded there would be some way out. From that time to the time of her departure she was offered extra work, she took it and then she took an excursion train for half fare, and the extra amount she saved, with the money she earned, was just forty dollars. Now if this Sister had given grudgingly, and with the intent that it was God's business to pay it back to her, I doubt if she would have been so fortunate. She gave because her heart was full of love for God and humanity. Luke 6: 38, "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over shall men give into your bosom, for with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 12: 28, "If then

God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe you. Oh ye of little faith." Beloved Brethren, do stop storing up so much of your wealth for children to quarrel over after you are gone. The history of mankind has always proven that one sure way to ruin children is to furnish them with plenty of money, and a life of ease. Who knows, but many of the sad, sad wrecks that come from our prosperous Christian homes, were intended by their Creator for a mighty uplifting power among men, and would have been bright and shining lights, worthy of God's noblest crown, if the parents had not corrupted and ruined them by giving them many thousands of dollars, that rightly belonged to the cause of Christ. I do want to plead with my well to do brethren and sisters in Christ's name, and with all the earnestness I can command, to make a solemn vow here and now, and in the future give God what belongs to him. Shame on a church that is not willing to support several missions, and at least one College. Perhaps you wonder why this letter has this peculiar heading. My husband said, the way to get the wealthy brethren to read it, is to head it thus, and as he is a man of good judgment I concluded to try it.

Falls City, Neb.

THE SAME OLD LIAR, AND THE SAME OLD LIE

L. S. BAUMAN

We have discovered that the devil still walks the earth! That he is "going to and fro, and up and down in it!"

A certain distinguished English philosopher, Frederic Harrison by name, recently addressed the Ethical Culture Society in this city. In the course of his address he attacked several of the basic doctrines of Christianity, known commonly as The Golden Rule, and The Second Great Commandment.

"Why love my neighbor?" he cried. "The gospel says, for fear of God's wrath, in order to win reward, in order to escape penalties,—all this makes the morality of the gospel. This doctrine has done great and glorious things, but it is not satisfactory to intelligent men. It has three great defects. It appeals merely to sentiment and feeling. It centres entirely in yourself, which is absolutely selfish."

We read one time of an upright old man by the name of Job. (We are not assured that Mr. Harrison ever heard the story.) One day, it is said, satan came into the presence of the Lord, and the Lord said, "Well, whence comest thou?" Satan replied, "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." Then asked the Lord, "And did you meet my servant Job and consider him,—a perfect and an upright man?" Stung by this question, satan sneeringly replied: "Humph! Doth Job fear God for naught? Haven't you built a hedge about him and his, and prospered

him? Job is serving God 'for fear of God's wrath, in order to win reward, in order to escape penalties,—all this makes the morality of Job. It centres entirely in himself, which is absolutely selfish' Take away the 'reward,' visit him with 'penalties' and he will curse thee to thy face." So God put his servant to the test, and permitted satan to take away the reward, the oxen, the asses, the camels, the sheep, the property, and even bereaved the old man of his children. He then permitted the devil to visit him with one of hell's penalties,—to touch his flesh and bone, until his life was but a horrible existence to which death would have been a great mercy. Now comes the test,—is Job serving God from selfish motives, or because his heart throbs with a great love for his Creator? Listen! A voice! "Job, curse God and die!" "What!" Cries the old patriarch, with indignation out of his very agony,—"Thou speakest like a foolish woman! The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away! Blessed be the name of the Lord!" Again, was the devil proven the tremendous liar that he is. "This religion,—this service rooted and grounded in selfishness, not in love!" "He is a liar and the father of it!" And still he walks the earth, uttering the same old lie. We hope he will go back soon to his den and stay there!

An absolutely unselfish man will not teach an "absolutely selfish" religion. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself." Self-denial, at once the antagonist of selfishness, is here declared to be a fundamental principle of Christianity. The religion that has founded every hospital for the old and infirm, that has built every home for the widow and the orphan, in the world today, cannot be rooted in selfish principles. The spirit of the world today, is,—get as much as you can of others into yourself. And the world is doing it. The spirit of Christ is,—give as much as you can of yourself to others. And Christians are doing it. Thousands today, influenced by the unselfish spirit of Christianity are literally pouring their lives out to sweeten and bless humanity, and *they are the only ones that are doing it!* Nor are they doing it for reward or for fear of penalties, but the "love of Christ constraineth them."

A man, noted for his selfishness, Saul of Tarsus, was converted to Christianity. Did he forsake his all for reward or fear of penalty? To give his own testimony: "I say the truth in Christ and lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ, for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites."

A man who could wish himself banished from the reward, and enduring the awful penalties, for the sake of others, is surely not selfish, and must be serving God and his fellowmen because of overwhelming love for God and his fellowmen. This is Christianity!